

Community Update

Jaite Paper Mill

March 2015

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

Midwest Region

Cuyahoga Valley National Park



SITE BACKGROUND...

The Jaite Paper Mill Site (Site) is located within the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), located in Brecksville, Ohio. The 30-acre Site is the former location of the Jaite Paper Mill. The mill was originally constructed in 1905 and operated continually until 1984, by which time the size of the plant had grown to 180,000 square feet. The mill originally produced paper bags for flour and cement with pulp produced in-house from rags and wood (NPS, 1979). Pulp was later imported from outside sources. Other products produced through the years of mill operations included fertilizer bags, bread sacks, rope, high quality kraft paper, and corrugated boxes (NPS, 1979; EDG, 1993).



In 1985, the Site became part of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). A fire in 1992 severely damaged a large part of the mill, causing the Site to be a hazard for both employees and visitors. After several structural and safety assessments, above grade structures were finally demolished in 2006.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS...

Numerous investigations have been performed on the Site since 1990. Several investigations focused on characterizing hazards from building materials or dilapidated structures in an effort to assess the integrity of the former mill complex and its potential for preservation. These investigations resulted in the demolition of the former mill building in 2006. These investigations are being conducted pursuant to NPS's cleanup authority under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also referred to as Superfund. NPS is the CERCLA "lead agency" at the Site, responsible for planning and directing the Site investigation and cleanup activities.

Environmental investigations have confirmed that hazardous substances associated with the Jaite Paper Mill operations are present on the Site. These investigations have shown that the Site is contaminated with metals, VOCs (volatile organic compounds), petroleum hydrocarbons, pesticides, herbicides, SVOCs (semi volatile organic compounds) and PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyl). The NPS is overseeing investigation and cleanup actions at the Site, which is defined to include all areas where hazardous substances from the Jaite Paper Mill operation have come to be located.



NEXT STEPS...

Since the demolition took place in 2006, there has been no physical activity at the Jaite Paper Mill Site. In 2013, the NPS completed a Draft Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) Work Plan. The NPS is currently finalizing the EE/CA Work Plan. The Work Plan presents a scope of work for data collection necessary to perform an EE/CA. The purpose of the EE/CA is to characterize the nature and extent of contamination on the Site and

to evaluate cleanup alternatives. The EE/CA will provide the basis for NPS's selection of a removal action to address hazardous substances at the Site. The EE/CA will be performed in accordance with CERCLA, the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 300 at § 300.415, Guidance on Conducting Non-Time-Critical Removal Actions Under CERCLA, and the EE/CA Work Plan.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT...

Community involvement is an important part of the NPS CERCLA process. Community Updates and the Site Community Involvement Plan will be available for viewing on the Cuyahoga Valley National Park website.

Information repositories have been established in the two locations identified below. These repositories house copies of the Site administrative record file. CERCLA administrative record files consist of those documents that will form the basis for the selection of the Site cleanup action. They include documents such as reports of all Site-related environmental investigations, ecological and human health risk assessments, community relations materials, public comments and responses to significant comments, and are updated periodically. A copy of the Site Community Involvement Plan also is available at each of the information repositories.

Jaite Paper Mill Information Repositories:

Akron-Summit County Public Library
60 South High St.
Akron, Ohio
Contact: Valerie Sherman
Phone: (330) 643-9079
Hours: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Eastern Time,
Monday through Friday

Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Contact: Veronica Dickerson
Phone: 440-546-5909

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

If you have questions concerning the information contained in this Community Update, please contact Veronica Dickerson, at 440-546-5909 (office) OR via email at Veronica_Dickerson@nps.gov.